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two species and thirty-five plates, the text sheets and plates being unbound in a folder. The work is beautifully prepared, the text handsomely printed on handmade paper, the illustrations admirable color plates, each figure being mounted separately on heavy paper, three to six on a plate.

Under each family the eggs of the several species are discussed with regard to their resemblances and systematic relationship, as well as their variation in color and form; while much interesting information regarding the depth of deposit of the pigment in the shell, and the composition of the pigments, is presented. Following this is a page for each species, intended to face the plate when bound, upon which is given the "Colour of shell, colour of spots, average dimensions, average weight of shell, texture of shell, shape, nest, site of nest, number of eggs, breeding season, and duration of incubation." As a purely "oölogical" work it is one of the best that has appeared and could be studied with profit by those who desire to place egg collecting on the plane of a science instead of allowing it to become a mere fad as has too often been its fate in America.—W. S.

**Berlepsch on Birds of the Aru Islands.**<sup>1</sup>—This paper, while based primarily upon a collection made by Dr. Hugo Merton from January to May, 1908, is extended to include all species hitherto reported from the islands. References to place of publication, type locality, and published records for each species are given, which form a valuable summary of our knowledge of the birds of this interesting group. A table is appended showing the distribution of the species or related geographic races in New Guinea and other neighboring islands.—W. S.

**Riley on Three New Birds from Canada.**<sup>2</sup>—In identifying a collection of birds taken on the 1911 Expedition of the Alpine Club of Canada to Jasper Park, Yellowhead Pass, and the Mount Robson region of British Columbia and Alberta, Mr. Riley finds three races which he regards as separable. A Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia inexpectata*, is intermediate between *M. m. rufina* and *M. m. merrilli*, apparently a case of very close splitting since the last form has been recently regarded as merely an intermediate between *rufina* and *montana*. A Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca altivagans*, is based upon "two slightly immature birds from Moose Branch of the Smoky River" and some migrants from farther south. Mr. Riley's studies of the Willow Ptarmigan lead him to recognize three forms in North America, *Lagopus lagopus alexandrae* Grinnell from the southwestern coast of Alaska, *L. l. albus* Gmelin from Hudson Bay to Siberia, and a form from Ungava which he names *L. l. ungarus*.—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> Die Vögel der Aru-Inseln mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Sammlungen des Herrn Dr. H. Merton. Von Hans Graf von Berlepsch. Abhandl. der Senckenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft, Bd. XXXIV, 1911.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of three New Birds from Canada. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. of Washington, XXIV, pp. 233-235. Nov. 28, 1911.